



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

(801) 538-5340 telephone

(801) 359-3940 fax

(801) 538-7223 TTY

www.nr.utah.gov


Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Robert L. Morgan
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

June 19, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Geokinetics, Seep Ridge Mine, M/047/002, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 23, 2003
Time of Inspection: 5:30 to 6:20 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly clear, 80's
Participants: Paul Baker (DOGM)

Purpose of Inspection:

I was in the area and wanted to see how successful last year's revegetation efforts had been. I also wanted to look one more time for any sign of the well in the trailer camp.

Observations:

So far, revegetation success has been mixed. I found no seedlings in any of the areas where shale was ripped, but there were some in the other areas.

Although the equipment near the well looks pretty dilapidated, the generator was running when I arrived at the site. No one else was there, so I don't know how long it had been running or how long it ran after I left. I briefly opened one of the valves, and water came out, but although it appeared valves into the water tank were open, I could not tell that the tank had any water in it.

I followed the main road into the site that leads back toward the gas pipeline on the east side of the mine area. Last fall, the operator ripped part of this road, but it has become more driveable as people have continued to drive on it. There is one culvert in this road that was ripped open last fall although I don't believe it would have been apparent at the time. Since then, though, water has washed dirt into the rips in the culvert which has exposed the ripped up culvert (Photo 1). Although the operator had intended that this road be closed, the holes and the exposed metal from the culvert are hazards.

I next went to the trailer camp where there used to be a well. There are no records indicating this well was properly reclaimed, and one former employee indicated it may have just been covered up. I wanted to see if I could find any sign of the well near the center of the camp where maps indicate it was. I found a piece of exposed pipe, and, following the direction in which it lay, I found a

Page 2

Geokinetics/Seep Ridge Mine

M/047/002

Inspection Date: May 23, 2003; Report Date: June 19, 2003

place where dirt had been heaped and a rock slab was placed almost like a grave marker (Photo 2). Near this rock, I found a cover from a pressure regulator for a water tank. I did not have any tools to dig and see if I could find anything here, but I think there is a good chance the well was/is at this location. I took a GPS point, and the UTM coordinates are 636,134 East, 4,388,246 North (see attached map). Other than this marker, this is a fairly non-descript point.

Recommendations:

We will need to wait and see how well vegetation becomes established. In the areas where shale is exposed, I would not be inclined to have the operator seed them again even if nothing becomes established.

The operator should remove the culvert. It may not have been visible when the site was being reclaimed, but it creates problems in its current condition. Although it would be much easier to use something like a backhoe to dig it out, I think it could be done by hand.

The next time someone is at the site, they should dig in the area of where I think the well might be to see if there is any sign of the well. If the well is found, it will need to be either upgraded to where it could be used for a postmining land use or properly abandoned.

jb

cc: John Blake, SITLA

Mickey Schott, Geokinetics

O:\M047-Uintah\M0470002-SeepRidge\inspections\ins-05232003sr.doc

ATTACHMENT

Inspection Date: May 23, 2003; Report Date: June 19, 2003

Photographs

M/047/002, Seep Ridge Mine, Geokinetics

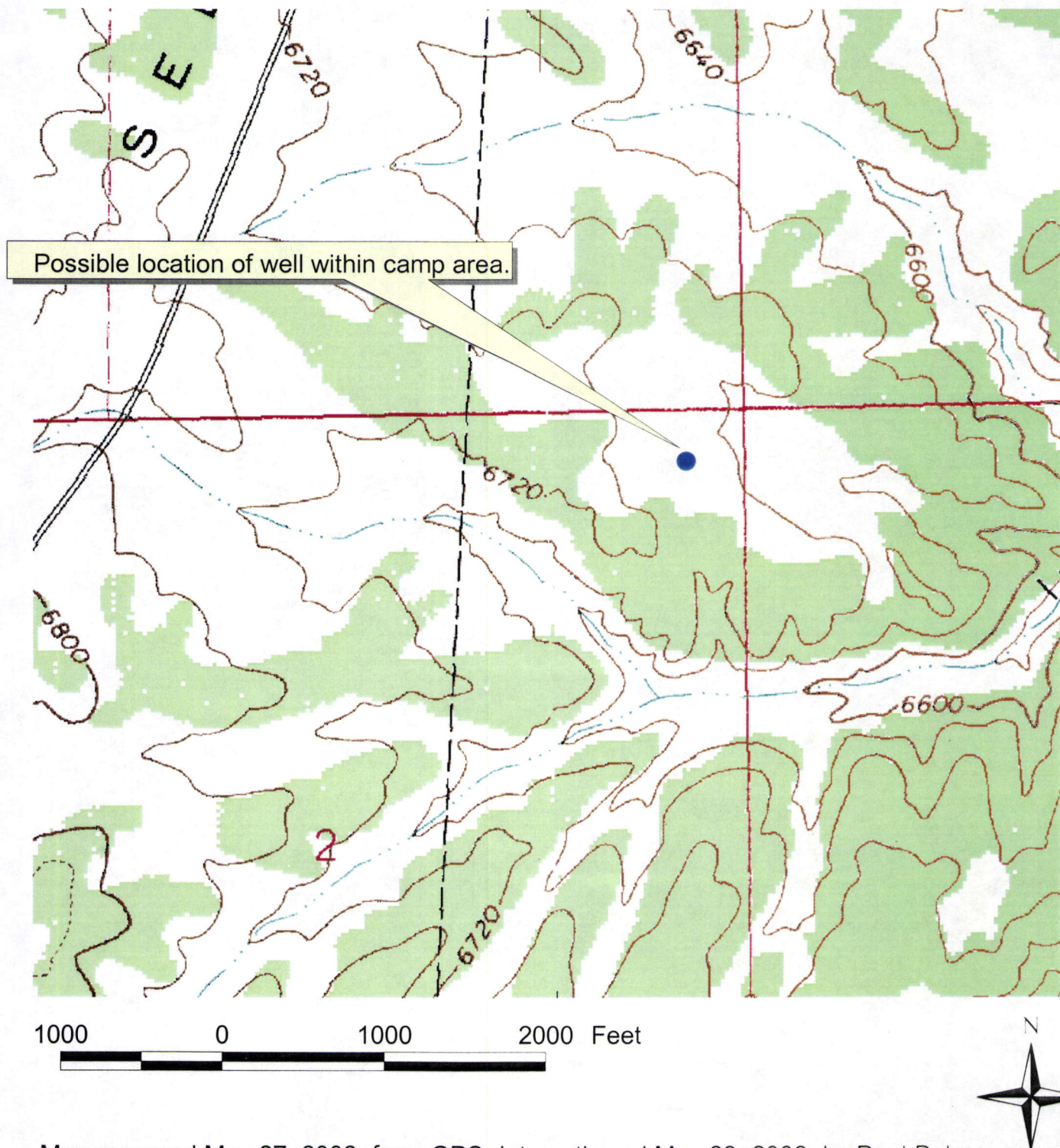


Photo 1. Places where water has piped into the ripped culvert.



Photo 2. Possible well location in the trailer camp.

Seep Ridge Mine S/047/002



Map prepared May 27, 2003, from GPS data gathered May 23, 2003, by Paul Baker.
Bates Knolls Quadrangle, Section 2, Township 14 South, Range 22 East, SLBM.

Coordinates of the point are 636,134 East, 4,388,246 North.